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Navy "SMART ERP" Pilot Goes Live, Reaches Milestone

On January 3, 2003, the Supply Maintenance Aviation Reengineering Team (SMART) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) program became a reality. The single software and process solution for E-2C Hawkeye aircraft and LM-2500 marine gas turbine engines incorporates maintenance, supply and financial operations in one system.

A joint venture between the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) and the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), SMART ERP is a pilot program that replaces outdated supply, maintenance, and financial management systems with a modern, responsive, accurate, and integrated system. SMART ERP improves parts management, providing total asset visibility, increasing inventory modeling capability, and facilitating data sharing among commands.

"This pilot program is a significant milestone and the beginning of a revolutionary change in Department of Navy business practices," said Kevin Fitzpatrick, SMART ERP's Program Executive at NAVSUP. "SMART ERP will allow our leadership to make better decisions based on real-time data and achieve a level of accountability we have never had before with our current legacy software."

In addition to NAVSUP and NAVAIR, various industry partners, including EDS, Manugistics, and Deloitte, are supporting the effort. Initial pilot participants include approximately 400 users at the Naval Inventory Control Point, Mechanicsburg and Philadelphia, Pa., the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), San Diego, and the Aircraft Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Detachment and Regional Supply Office (RSO), Norfolk. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Norfolk, will provide accounting support.

On January 3, Aviation Storekeepers from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight (HC8), Norfolk, placed the first two orders into the SMART system. Four shear bolts were ordered from RSO Norfolk. Within minutes of the order being initiated by the Squadron, the SMART ERP system responded, the location of the parts was identified, a picking ticket was printed, and the proper financial and inventory transactions were performed real-time and all within a single, integrated system. Moreover, the HC8 technicians received the bolts within 30 minutes.

Teams in San Diego, Norfolk, Philadelphia, and Mechanicsburg have worked diligently to resolve transition and legacy data issues common to the implementation of new information technology systems. Users can now access the system and use it to conduct normal business for the E2C and LM2500 weapons systems. Other shore-based and deployed sites with these weapons systems will have their requirements seamlessly processed by the SMART system. When fully implemented, SMART ERP could reduce inventory costs and lower inventory management-related infrastructure expenses by an estimated \$100 million annually.

The SMART ERP project replaces 1960's-vintage Legacy supply, financial and maintenance systems (Uniform Inventory Control Point (UICP), U2, and the Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System (NALCOMIS) at Norfolk, San Diego and the Naval Inventory Control Point with a single integrated system. NAVICP manages the two systems, Norfolk operates and maintains E2C aircraft, and FISC San Diego provides supply support for depot repair of both the E2C and the LM2500.

NAVSUP's primary mission is to provide U.S. Naval forces with quality supplies and services. With headquarters in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and employing a worldwide work force of more than 24,000 military and civilian personnel, NAVSUP oversees logistics programs in the areas of supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, and security assistance. In addition, NAVSUP is responsible for quality of life issues for our naval forces, including food service, postal services, Navy Exchanges, and movement of household goods.